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Dated: July 30, 2007

Signature: /Kristin L. Murphy/  
(Kristin L. Murphy)

Docket No.: 65937-0037  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In re Patent Application of:  
Joseph L. Mark et al.

Application No.: 10/649,068

Confirmation No.: 4645

Filed: August 27, 2003

Art Unit: 3737

For: INTRODUCTION SYSTEM FOR  
MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGICAL  
INSTRUMENTS  
\_\_\_\_\_

Examiner: P. Solanki

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116**

MS AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Office Action dated March 28, 2007, finally rejecting claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13-17, 19-21, 23-34, 36-42 and 50, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 9 of this paper.